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ACTION ARA-16
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /069 W
074187 080019Z /66

P R 071300Z NOV 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5722
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA
C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 8230
USCINCSO FOR INTAFF; USCINCLANT FOR POLAD
E.O. 12065: GDS 11/6/86 (HAVERKAMP, R) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: MANLEY APPOINTED LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY
DATE 25 JUN 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JAMAICA'S GOVERNOR GENERAL, FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE, ON NOVEMBER 5 APPOINTED FORMER PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. MANLEY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL NAME THE OPPOSITION'S EIGHT SENATORS BY THE WEEKEND.
2. (C) COMMENT. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH SPECULATION HERE ABOUT MANLEY'S FURTURE. HE IS KNOWN TO DISLIKE THE ROLE OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, AND AT AN ELECTION DAY PRESS CONFERENCE DESCRIBED THE POSITION AS "BORING." MANY BELIEVE THAT HE WILL LEAVE JAMAICA, PERHAPS TO WORK ON BOLLOWUP TO THE BRANDT COMMISSION REPORT OR TO TEACH OR LECTURE. SO FAR, HOWEVER, HIS PLANS REMAIN IN THE REALM OF SPECULATION. HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE SOCIALIST
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INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN MADRID NEXT WEEK MAY GIVEHIM SOME OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE HIS FUTURE.
3. (C) AT THE SAME TIME, MANLEY FACES THE DIFFICULT TASK OF BEGINNING THE JOB OF REBUILDING HIS PARTY, WHICH MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO CONTINUE ON ITS LEFTIST COURSE OR TRY TO MOVE BAK TO THE TRADITIONAL CENTER OF JAMAICAN POLITICS. IF HE LEAVES, HIS LAST CONTRIBUTION TO DEMOCRACY IN JAMAICA MAY WELL BE TO ENGINEER THE REMOVAL OF PARTY GENERAL SECREATRY D.A. DUNCAN (A GENERAL PARTY CONFERENCE WOULD BE NECESSARY) AND LEAVE THE PARTY IN THE HANDS OF A MODERATE GENERAL SECRETARY. HE HAS LESS ROOM FOR CHOICE IN PICKING A SUCCESSOR LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HAVING TO CHOOSE FROM AMONG THE FEW REMAINING PNP MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NONE OF WHOM HAS AN IMPRESSIVE BACKROUND IN THE PARLIAMENT OR NATIONAL STATURE.
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ONE OPTION MIGHT BE TO PERSUADE ONE OF THE THREE INCUMBENT PNP MPS FROM A SAFE SEAT TO RESIGN TO PERMIT THE ELECTION OF A HAND-PICKED NEW LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN A BY-ELECTION. MANLEY'S SEAT IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY SAFE TO RISK WINNING A BY-ELECTION UNLESS THE JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) AGREE NOT TO CONTEST. FEW MONTHS, WE SHOULD BEGIN TO SEE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE PNP IS MOVING AND BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME INITIAL JUDGMENTS AS TO WHETER AND IN WHAT MANNER THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM WILL SURVIVE IN JAMAICA.
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